

MINUTES

**MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
58th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION**

FREE CONFERENCE COMMITTEE ON HOUSE BILL 559

Call to Order: By **CHAIRMAN BILL GLASER**, on April 23, 2003 at
2:30 P.M., in Room 317 Capitol.

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Sen. Bill Glaser, Chairman (R)
Rep. John Brueggeman, Vice Chairman (R)
Sen. Bob Story Jr. (R)
Rep. John Musgrove (D)
Sen. Jim Elliott (D)
Rep. Steven Gallus (D)

Members Excused: None.

Members Absent: None.

Staff Present: Marian Collins, Committee Secretary
Lee Heiman, Legislative Branch

Please Note. These are summary minutes. Testimony and discussion
are paraphrased and condensed.

Committee Business Summary:

Hearing & Date Posted: HB 559, 4/22/2003
Executive Action: AMEND FURTHER

{Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 0.1 - 10.5}

CHAIRMAN GLASER presented amendments listed in Exhibit 1. He stated that two new amendments suggested by SEN. STORY are included with the amendments proposed in the Conference Committee earlier in the week.

EXHIBIT (frh86hb0559a01)

Jim Gillett, Legislative Auditor's Office, gave a brief overview of the amendments.

CHAIRMAN GLASER stated that there is one amendment that reflects a \$3 rate on cars rather than the \$5 rate that's in the bill. This amendment was at the request of the Governor.

{Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 10.6 - 16.2}

Motion: SEN. STORY moved ADOPTION OF THE AMENDMENTS.

Discussion: SEN. ELLIOTT asked if these amendments contain an increase in the fee paid to register an automobile, and stated that, if so, this bill does contain a tax or fee increase. He expressed concern with increasing taxes on some classes of vehicles so that taxes can be decreased on other classes of vehicles. He acknowledged that the amendment lowered the amount of the tax and stated that he will therefore probably support the amendment, but would oppose the bill.

Vote: Motion carried 6-0 by voice vote.

Doug Monger, Administrator, Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP), stated that they have a concern about the long-term impact on the snowmobile or highway vehicle decal part of these fees. The elimination of the fees included in this bill such as the camper decal has a \$15,000 impact on the state parks program which is a concern of FWP.

{Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 19.4 - 20.2}

Motion/Vote: REP. GALLUS moved ADOPTION OF THE BILL AS AMENDED.

Motion carried 5-1 with SEN. ELLIOTT voting no by voice vote.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 3:00 P.M.

SEN. BILL GLASER, Chairman

MARIAN COLLINS, Secretary

BG/MC

EXHIBIT (frh86hb0559aad)